

International Morse Preservation Society



KEY NOTE



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E-Mail: fists01@aol.com

http://www.asel.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/ or http://www.smartgroups.com/vault/fists/

OFFICES

QSL Manager: M0AVW
32 Woodford Walk, Harewood Park, TS17 0LT
AWARDS MANAGER: G0FRL
12 Cavenham Grove, BOLTON, BL1 4UA
PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh
3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY
CONTEST MANAGER: M0CLO
86 Coldnailhurst Ave, East Perry, CM7 5PY

COMMITTEE

Chairman
Vice Chairman
QSL Manager
Awards mgr
P.R.O.
Rally Coordinator
Secretary
Committee

G4PSE
G4XHZ
M0AVW
G0FRL
G4YLB
G4PPG
G3ZQS
G4MZS

NETS

Sunday QRS 0900 (loc) 3.575 2E0AJS
US 0100Z on 14058
Tues: GX0IPX/P 1930 ON 3.558 (+/-)
Net Control G3HZL
DX 14/21/28.058 on the hour for 15mins
Pse keep watch on all Novice allocations
UK Net Controls use GX0IPX/P

SUBS: UK £5.00, EEC £7.00. Others £10.00. Your renewal date appears on the mailing label and your anticipation would be much appreciated.

Up-dated listings may be obtained from HQ. Please include 3 2nd class stamps to cover return and running costs

Lapel Badges, £1.50 incl.

Fabric patches £2.50 incl.

QSL Cards £6.00 per 100 or £9.00 per 200 (UK and EU pse add £1.00 for p/p. DX members - on advice.

Personalised stickers £1.00 per sheet of 65. Max order 5 sheets. Please include your **CALLSIGN** on **all** correspondence.

costs £1.30 for each European member and this sum reflects that which would be incurred for even a single award.

HELP

I need a replacement LCD panel for a Compaq Armada 1700-6233/T. The unit is actually branded TOSHIBA, with a model type LTM12C278E Does anyone have a junk ARMADA (some PROLIANT models use the same display) with an OK display they'd part with? I've been quoted up to £1400 for a replacement new one, which is a bit silly cos I can get a replacement s/h Armada laptop for £550, and I'm pretty sure that's all the whole laptop cost when new, some 2 years ago. G3ZPF.

NEW MEMBERS

7749	G4VHM	Mike	7750	G0BTD	Graham
7751	HB9US	Werner	7752	JH1GKW	Koh
7753	M0AHT	Wilf	7754	2E0ATZ	Bob
7755	PA0HPV	Henk	7756	PA0LPE	Bert
7757	HB9CHE	Erich	7758	G3BEC	Nobby
7759	DH2FW	Frank			

SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Ray and xyl are off to France for the weekend 16 March and Ray will be porting the St Dunstons call, GB25STD briefly during this period. Just a quick trip so no long term guarantees.

UA4AQO

From GM3KHH comes the sad news that *Serge V Ignatenko, UA4AQO died at his place of work at 1000a.m. on 17 January 2001 and was buried in Volgograd on 19 January 2001. He was 42 years old and is survived by xyl Svetlana, daughter Maria and son Andrew. His 72 year old mother, Nadezhda, also resides with his family at UL. MENZHINSKOGO D24, KB 165, SPARTANOVKA 400033 VOLGOGRAD-33, RUSSIA.*

This information was sent to me by a mutual friend in Volgograd last night by e-mail. Serge was member 4586 of the RNARS who have also been advised.

I had the great honour and pleasure to be a guest in their home for two weeks in April 1999 when Serge and his lovely family could not have done more to make me welcome. Serge had recently been promoted to Colonel of Police (non-uniformed) in the technical arm of that service, handling radio communications in the city of Volgograd. He will be sadly missed.

Bill contacted me later to say that the original address for Serge at: PO Box 2960, 400121, VOLGOGRAD-121, Russia is secure so any member feeling he would like to contribute to the family support could convert what they wish into US dollars and send to this address.

For the confused, it should be pointed out that much of the overseas mail entering Russia at present is subject to 'tampering' and if it contains anything of value it is rare for it to get to its destination. Post Office Boxes I understand do not suffer from this but they are usually located in blocks of flats or tenements and are poorly constructed with thin sheet metal boundaries which makes it easy for the light-fingered brigade to access. The one above however is in a sensitive environment and constructed more sturdily.

All outgoing QSLs to M0AVW (address on banner).

All UK members send stamps and labels (no envelopes necessary) to the appropriate sub-manager as below:

M or 2 calls (Except for Wales) M0AYI. 7 Tynedale Terrace, Annfield Plain, STANLEY, DH9 7TZ.

G0, GM0 etc (Except GW0). G3JRY. 3 Rochford Cresc, BOSTON, PE21 9AE

G3, GM3 etc (except GW3). G0UQF. 2 East St, Darfield, BARNESLEY, S73 9AE.

G4, GM4 etc (Except GW4). M5AAQ. 6 Central Ave, SHEPHERD, LE12 9HP.

G2, G5, G6, G8 (Except for Wales) and **ALL** special (GB etc) calls to M0BPT. 38 Wheatley St, WEST BROMWICH, B70 9TJ.

All members in Wales. GW0SGG. 14 Heather Cresc, Sketty, SWANSEA, SA2 8HE

EU/DX Members: IRCs or UK Banknotes to M0AVW. Eurocheques, Girocheques or \$US bills to HQ. Club will provide envelopes.

GREETINGS

Hello again people and things are starting to buzz from this month. We have of course the EUCW QRS Contest but there is a heck of a lot more CW activities going on as well. If the bands continue as they have done, we are in for a period of very juicy activity.

Towards the latter end of January, the heat became unbearable. At one point it rose as high as minus 15c for some areas of Lancashire though we seem to have put these extremes aside now and temperatures are expected to run to normal for the remainder of the winter. There was sugar on the pill though because as many of you were heard to confirm, the HF bands began to peak. VK and ZL were heard on 10 and 15m whilst the more adventurous were finding some juicy stuff on 12m. This latter band was almost clean of noise and the weak signals coming out of the Manilla area were perfect copy. Keeping an ear on that band regularly now and with a little attenuation, headphones via a dsp filter and some luck, I am rarely disappointed

Sorry, but I must remind you that apart from the Century, all applications certificates must be accompanied by the appropriate sum. Bob has received multiple applications with a handful of IRCs which would leave a significant shortfall on postal costs alone to say nothing of the cost of the stock, envelope and stiffeners. I know from new-members packs for instance that it

SILENT KEY

From the Widow of G4RHP, I learn that Len passed away coincidentally on 17 Jan (the same date as Serge, UA4AQO). Myrtle tells me that he enjoyed amateur radio very much and spent many hours contacting his friends around the world. I last worked Len 20/07/00 on 40m though I am sure he will figure in many logs within the FISTS group.

DXPEDITION TO ZD7/8

Members of Barry Amateur Radio Society in the UK are mounting a Dxpeditio to ZD7 & ZD8 in March and April 2001. This will allow us 8 days on Ascension & 17 on St Helena with 7 days of travelling between the islands and the UK. The British team will comprise of 4 members made up of 3 operators:

Glyn GW0ANA (Data & SSB)

Doug G0WMW (CW & SSB)

Richard GW4BVJ (CW & SSB)

Personal callsigns are likely to be ZD7 and ZD8 ANA, BVJ & WMW respectively. The Dxpeditio call is yet to be cleared.

We will be active on all bands including WARC, 160 and 6 and all modes. It is our intention to take part in the CQ WW WPX Contest from ZD8 on 25/26 March 2001.

The initial purpose of this expedition was to commemorate the work done at the two islands namely Ascension and St Helena as the communication centre for Britain in the Southern latitudes. These communications were done for nearly 100 years in morse and now that mode has officially ended, we felt it should not pass without some recognition.

We thank all our sponsors to date and look forward to seeing you in the pileups. Please feel free to browse around the web site. On advice from Doug, G0WMW, this info was downloaded from the web-site <<http://www.dxpeditio.co.uk>>. Sorry about the graphics. The pictures were at 72dpi for display on the web and any similarity between these and images on Scotland Yards 'most wanted' list is purely a quirk of the camera.

TROUBLE AT T'BANK

Well not that much trouble actually but I was subjected to a degree of hassle which I could well have done without on a recent visit to the bank. Paying in cheques for subs etc., three were dragged out of the pile and the teller queried the account. One was 'International Morse Preservation', another was simply 'Morse Club' and the other was unintelligible. Please note that all cheques to HQ should be made out simply to 'FISTS'.

IMPORTANT NO MORE EUROCHEQUES

For our European Members, we have something of a shock. It would seem that for many months now, arrangements have been underway to de-classify Eurocheques and place them under the same label as International Money Orders. Each Eurocheque will cost us £6.00 which is clearly a no-no since the average value is for £7.00. Unfortunately, NO advice was received from the bank despite the fact that each month a number of Eurocheques have been submitted.

This is **arip-off**. The person sending the cheque is being screwed for a fair percentage of the face value to begin with and now the recipient also.

The most practical alternative is simply to convert subs into US Dollars or UK banknotes and send it under registered cover. Frankly, it surprises me that this form of payment has not been more widely adopted. Registering an envelope will cost much less than the charge made for the creation of a Eurocheque or IMO. Another alternative is to appoint a 'paymaster' in a European country who could accept subs, advise me of the receipt and periodically send the accrued value to HQ.

If anyone has any suggestions which would help the overseas members and also ensure that HQ does not lose out on this then please LMK.

COHERENT CW

There has been little advance in the use of Coherent CW which is something of a shame.

Earlier members may recall that this made it was possible to work with a band-pass in the order of 10Hz with virtually no QRM whatever. It is not a smoke and mirrors trick. The main demands are a stable transceiver and a computer.

Peter, G3IRM, tells me that for the time being they are concentrating on using what is available although one keen US based user is developing a special transceiver for the mode.

The programme you need is called PCW and was written by Ernst Schroder (DJ7HS) and comes in two flavours. The first (v2.2) uses the interface designed by Bill de Carle, VE2IQ, and the other (v2.4) just uses the sound card in the computer.

These programmes may be downloaded as shareware from: <http://www.qsl.net/dj7hs/download.htm>.

It would be appreciated if those who download the programmes contact Peter with suggested operating times and frequencies. At present he is active each Sunday at 1600z on 14015 looking for CCW contacts.

You will just have to believe this friends but no matter how busy 14015 may be, ccw will still be 100% readable and you will hear not a squeak from other stations occupying the frequency.



Doug G0WMW
CW & SSB



Richard GW4BVJ
CW & SSB

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Please visit www.hobbytrade.co.uk
to see these and many other services.

CONTEST MANAGER

Your attention is directed to the banner and the change of information for contest manager. Due to Gerrys' ongoing health problems, M0CLO has taken up the reins. His first taste of the job will be the SKW of course, followed by the EUCW QRS Contest. I am sure he will be given the same support and encouragement as was afforded to Gerry. GM4BAE.

PASS ON THE KNOWLEDGE

This is the title of a leaflet from the RSGB which arrived recently and is appealing for help from affiliated clubs to support the National Science Week from 16 to 25 March. Since FISTS does not have a 'base' as other clubs do, it would be extremely difficult to offer anything other than support and encouragement. Hopefully, there will be more practical support from local clubs setting up demos and talks from Schools and other institutions and the Society provides appropriate packs for those prepared to help. *"The hobby needs new young people participating in all aspects of amateur radio and this is our opportunity to attract them. Phase 3D is in space, amateurs onboard the International Space Station are talking to schools daily, radio amateurs are transmitting digital TV - we have a great story and future - lets tell the world!"*

G3TUX

The QRP Component Company

Stockists of Keys (Bencher, DK1WE, Jones, Kent Schurr and the Swedish pump) also agent for the Samson series of electronic keyers.

Used keys of all types bought and sold

SAE/IRC for prices/data
PO Box 88, HASLEMERE, GU27 2RF
Phone 01428-661501 FAX 01428-66795

US VISITOR TO UK

KA2HDO will be visiting the UK in June and would like to meet up with some of the gang. He will be in the Richmond area so if anyone there would like to set up an eyeball, please let him know either directly or via HQ.

OOOOOPS !

Gerald, G3MCK, points out that I was in error last month when quoting a suggested QRG for possible QRS oriented segment of 80m. It should be 3570 and not 3770. Should have been obvious at the time so I guess I am losing a grip on reality or something but it sure can't be put down to 'sticky keys'. Hi.

CLUB HISTORIAN??

My thanks to Tony, G4FAI who responded in magnificent manner to a query from a US member concerning a British WWII Key. I have been reliant upon Tony's knowledge in the past and he invariably comes up trumps.

SKW

Keith, M0CLO, queried the event and wondered why it was intrinsically insular. To be honest, it is something which I have never even considered.

With a little juggling of the rules, it should be possible to make the event available to other clubs and even stations with no affiliations at all. Remember that the item for FIST of the year is also available to non-members so why not?

Since he is now officially our Contest Manager, I am rather inclined to throw the ball into his court and see what he can come up with in time for the next SKW event.

OK Keith.. get the grey cells working mate!

AWARD FOR FISTS MEMBER

Transmission 2000 was an event instigated by the British Wireless for the Blind Fund and on this occasion, the largest individual subscription came from John, G3GUR with a very impressive £436.50. Compared to the previous years results of just over £3000, Transmission 2000 swelled the organisations' funds by a massive £5,890 which enabled them to provide radio cassette equipment for 117 registered blind.

John should be now be in receipt of a 144 MHz beam (donated by South Midlands Communications) and a clock donated by Icom.

Transmission 2001 is scheduled to take place 15/16 September so there is lots of time should any member be moved to offer support. <www.blind.org.uk>.

RADIO MILLENIUM LODGE

From Jack, G3FEV, a letter indicating that a new Masonic Lodge was consecrated 4 Nov/00 as Radio Millennium Lodge and numbered 9709 at the Urmston Masonic Hall in Gt. Manchester. Its members are Freemasons who also happen to be radio amateurs.

Don't know how many Freemasons we have within our ranks but they (and anyone interested) is invited to contact Jack on 01706-222587 for more detailed information.

Jack also included photo-copied representation of the Lodge Jewel which sadly is not reproducible but interestingly bears the inscription 'Septuaginta Tres' which translates from the latin as 73.

G4ZPY

KEYS AND PADDLES

All items hand-crafted with the skill of a trained engineer. Also miniature versions which are much acclaimed throughout the world.

SAE/IRC TO:

41 Mill Dam Lane, Burscough, ORMSKIRK, L40 7TG

Tel: 01704-884299

e-mail: g4zpy@lineone.net

<http://website.lineone.net/~gzpy/index.htm>

CHANGE OF CALL

Congratulations to Jan ex 2E0ASD who is now identified as

FISTS CW CLUB NEWS LETTER

M0CMS. Talking of call changes, the US brigade is still in an almost constant state of flux with up-grades and FCC approved call changes. If you find a call which does not agree with your list of numbers, query the call indicated. Could be the guy has just changed his call and the news has not yet filtered through.

TABLE TOP TRICKERY

Again, we see the magic in the fingers of M0BLO. The base and knob are of teak but it has never been used in anger "*the xyl pinched it. Now lives on the mantle piece as ornament*"



And this (below) says Peter is the first one I ever made. The base of course is aluminium with a brass beam. The knob is machined from a plastic screwdriver handle and contacts have been fashioned from a miniature micro switch.

When you consider that all Peters keys have been constructed using the absolute minimum in terms of tools, he must be feeling more than a little pleased at his efforts.



ELMER AWARDS

Quite a while since we issued any of these but we have two from F5PBL to LZ1ACY and LZ1EO. Both these stations were a considerable help to Claude whilst learning some years ago and he is anxious that they should receive due recognition.

EUCW/FISTS QRS PARTY

To encourage newcomers to Morse operating, and as a contribution to the activities of the European CW Association, FISTS CW Club invites all licensed radio amateurs, especially members of EUCW clubs, to take part in the annual EUCW/FISTS QRS Party.

This event provides an opportunity for EUCW club members, and non-members, to meet and exchange greetings with each other at a leisurely pace. At the same time it is an opportunity to make contacts qualifying for the prestigious *Worked EUCW* award.

Although not a contest in the normal sense of the word, there is a contest element for those who thrive on challenge, with awards for those who score the most points, and a merit award for the "Most Readable Morse Heard" voted for by other contestants.

In this event, taking part is more important than winning, providing fun for all in a non-stressful introduction to a contest-like event for beginners, and an opportunity for more experienced operators to put something back into the hobby by helping and encouraging those less experienced in CW operating. Feedback can only be obtained from contestants' reports so, whatever your level of experience, and even if you only have time to make a few contacts, please make an effort to send in a log. Please note that this is a FISTS sponsored event and participation from as many members as possible would be very much appreciated.

DATES/TIMES:

From 00.01 UTC on the fourth Sunday in April, for one week, to 23.59 UTC on the following Saturday. For 2001, the dates will be Sunday 22nd to Saturday 28th April.

MODE: CW only.

FREQUENCIES: All bands, except WARC bands. Non-QRP stations are requested to avoid calling CQ on the popular QRP frequencies.

KEYS/SPEEDS: Any type of key or keyer may be used, but no keyboard sending or pre-programmed messages from computers or keyers allowed. Maximum speed 14 words per minute (70 cpm). The speed of a QSO should be at the speed of the slower station

CALL: CQ QRS/EUCW. Stations may be worked or logged once each day in each band used

EUCW CLUBS:

Listen out for members of the following clubs, taking part in the EUCW/FISTS QRS Party:

AGCW-DL (Germany); Benelux-QRPC; BTC (Belgium); CFT (Belgium); CT-CWC (Portugal); EA-QRPC (Spain); EHSC (Extremely High Speed Club); FISTS; FOC (First Class Operators); G-QRP; GTC (Greece); HACWG (Hungary); HCC (Spain); HSC (High Speed Club); HTC (Switzerland); INORC (Italy); I-QRPC (Italy); ITC (Italy); MCWG (Macedonia); OE-CWG (Austria); OHTC (Finland); OK-QRPC (Czech Republic); RTC (former GDR); SCAG (Scandinavia); SHSC (Super High Speed Club); SP-CWC (Poland); UCWC (Russia); UFT (France); U-QRPC (Ukraine); VHSC (Very High Speed Club); YL-CW-GP (Germany); 3A-CW-G (Monaco); 9ACWG (Croatia).

CLASSES:

A - Members of EUCW clubs using more than 10w input or 5w output power

B - Members of EUCW clubs using QRP (10w input or 5w output, or less)

C - Non-members of EUCW clubs using any power

D - Shortwave listeners

EXCHANGES:

Class A & B, RST/QTH/Name/Club/membership number

Class C, RST/QTH/Name/NM (ie, not a member)

Class D, Log information for both stations

SCORING:

Class A/B/C - 1 point per QSO with own country, 3 points per QSO with other European countries.

Class D - 3 points for every complete logged QSO.

Multiplier, all classes: 1 multiplier point for each EUCW club worked/ logged per day and band.

LOGS: To include date, UTC, band, call worked, info sent, info received, and score claimed for each QSO

SUMMARY: To include entrant's full name, call, address, EUCW club, Class entered, multiplier claimed, total points claimed, station details, including type of key/keyer used, power used, comments (if any) on the event, one vote for "Most Readable Morse Heard", and signature of entrant.

E-mailed logs and summaries are acceptable, provided they follow the same format as detailed above.

ENTRIES: Send log and summary to:

FISTS/EUCW Contest Manager,

Keith Farthing, M0CLO,

86, Coldnailhurst Avenue,

Braintree, Essex, CM7 5PY,

England.

or e-mail to: keithm0clo@hotmail.com

All logs to be received not later than 31st May.

AWARDS:

a) A certificate will be awarded to the three top scorers in each class.

b) A certificate of merit will be awarded to the operator receiving most votes for the "Most Readable Morse Heard", provided the operator nominated has also submitted a log. If the recipient of the most votes has not submitted a log the certificate of merit will be awarded to the qualifying entrant with the next highest number of votes. In the event of a tie multiple certificates will be awarded, endorsed "Shared Award".

No correspondence can be entered into. The Contest Manager's decision shall be final in making all awards.

Morsum Magnificat



Samuel F. B. Morse
1791-1872

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THE IN-BOX

Hi Geo,

Thought that I would drop you a short E-Mail to let you know that I came first in the RSGB QRS CUMULATIVE CW CONTEST. Results were published in February issue of Radcom. Having a great time on CW and about to send my claim off to Bob for my Silver Award !!

Keep up the good work es look for you again on the bands.

FISTS CW CLUB NEWS LETTER

Vy 73 es Gud Lk De Peter M5 ABN

Thanks for KEYNOTE Geo.

Yes I am still vy interested in the idea of an "improvers net".

Please tell me how I let cw enthusiasts know my e-mail address.

Hope u es Ivy are getting better.

73

Mark mark.m0cmq.fists7701@cwctv.net

Hi Geo and thanks for the first Key Note of the year. Yesterday I've sent an eMail off to Chris, G4PDJ. I for one would very much like to see a Southern UK/Northern EU net. Lets see what comes of it...

Anyway, the subject line says it all. Remember how I was completely over the moon at having worked Dave, VK3DBD last summer? That was just topped this morning when I heard Ralph, ZL2AOH on 14058 calling CQ FISTS. After initial difficulties contact was established with 339/329. A whopping 18329km QSO that was !!! Life doesn't get any better... ;-)

BTW, there's that great site on the web that lets you check distances. Very useful at times. For the interested, the URL is: <http://www.indo.com/cgi-bin/dist>. Just enter the names of places, or better the coordinates as they cover only the major places by name, and send it off.

73 de Thomas, DL4OBN, FISTS #6402, Hannover/Germany

Please note that, for our french speaking members, there are now two very complete new items on the UFT web site (<http://www.uft.net>) One for the CW Contests hold by F5JBR and a new DX'Péditions by I.

I come sometimes also on the US FISTS site and on a lot of US members's ones. I have noted that US FISTS sponsors some cw tests, but why reserve these tests only to US FISTS HAMS? . I think FISTS is a only one cw'ers family; something offered to one FISTS must be offered to all the others. I hope that's not the beginning of a secession.

Maurice F5NQL, FISTS 1816.

Frequently enough, it is just not feasible to involve members on both sides of the pond. A US sprint or test for instance that is devoted to 40m would not be available to us because it would be taking place on a part of the band that we do not have access to. The SKW is really local to Europe because activity is generally concentrated on 40/80m although the US brigade is advised by virtue of our own Keynote being reproduced in Nancys' NA MEMO.

FINALE

Well what a lu-lu. I would not have had space to print it all due to other traffic but the strawberry basket cost me the best part of two hours to write up and, after (of course) I ditched the paperwork, a simple slip on the keyboard deleted the lot and left it unrecoverable. This does not normally happen because items are usually edited and exported to text files carrying with them any attributes that have been applied in the DTP package. Didn't even have time to do this. Sri.

Ralph, ZL2AOH reported suspected intruders on 14057. This frequently takes the form of CW groups comprising 4 or 5 alpha and numeric characters. At other times, it is just a continuous CW signal but out in ZL, it is at S7/8 and at a time when the band is opening to Europe or the US. Prime suspect is one of the embassy buildings in a large city somewhere but if others could confirm his observations than sufficient pressure may be applied to waken up the relevant authorities and perhaps get something done about it.

I write this as the SKW is in progress and I take a few breaks to hand out points. Activity is most encouraging especially if ALL who took part would submit a log irrespective. On this occasion of course, logs to Gerry (GM4BAE) at 'Northbrae', Brookfield Cresc, STRANRAER, DG9 0HY which will be his final duty before M0CLO takes over the reins..

Sorry we are strapped for space again this month people despite (as you will note) reducing the font size from 10 to 8 for the item on the EUCW QRS contest. I hope this does not cause too much of a problem with members whose sight is not all it should be. We have quite a period before the bands begin to fall off so take advantage. 10 and 15m offer much opportunity for some juicy stuff as does 13m.

73/88 es stay sober de Geo

MARCH 2001

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